The islands, excepting the southern portion, are in the typhoon belt. The typhoon appears to be a phenomenon peculiar to the waters in and about the Philippine Archipelago.

A destructive typhoon, like a destructive cyclone, is a great calamity causing terrible disasters on land and sea and enormous material damage. On the other hand, depressions and ordinary typhoons, owing to the beneficial rains they produce, are often rather a blessing to the island than otherwise.

The Philippines is situated in the seismic belt, but certain islands, as Bohol and Palawan, have been proved to be relatively earthquake-immune areas. In Manila the average of seismic disturbances throughout a long course of years has been one a month, but of the feeble tremors only slight notice is taken by the people. The most devastating earthquake was the one which occurred on June 3,18 63, which demolished the Cathedral, the palace of the Governor-General, and other public buildings in Manila.

Fortunately for the Philippines, weather forecasts are made accurately by the Weather Bureau. The Manila Observatory, the central office of the Weather Bureau, was founded by the Jesuit Order in 1865. Notable scientists, including Father Federico Faura and Father Jose Algue, have been in charge of it$ their contributions to meteorology brought them international renown. The Philippine Government very wisely retained the Jesuit Fathers to supervise the functions of the Weather Bureau,

If the reader retains a picture of Americans in the tropics fostered by movie films, sweltering in terrific heat and wearing *a U* Stanley in Africa a cork helmet, or if he has a vision of scantily clad maidens doing a *hula* in the moonlight, let

[5] **Section read by Mr, Walter Robb, Editor of the American Chamber of Commerce Jojirnal.**